



# CLEARWATER COUNTY PROFILE

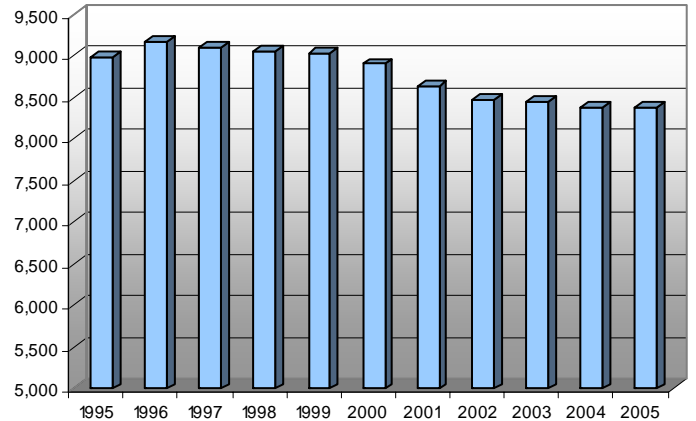
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## Population

During the early 1990's, population in Clearwater County grew and then peaked at 9,232 in 1996. Since then, population flattened to 8,373 in 2005. Clearwater County is ranked 35th out of 44 Idaho counties in population growth. New registrations for driver's licenses and job registrations at the Orofino Job Service indicate that the few people that did move to Clearwater County are from other parts of the Pacific Northwest and California. People are moving into Clearwater County because of the scenic and rural nature of the county.



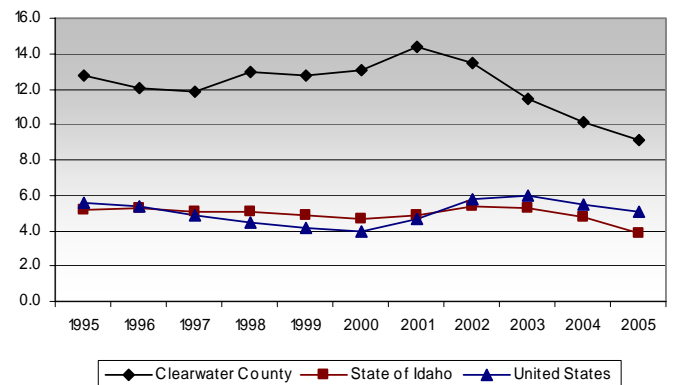
## Labor Force & Employment

Total Employment in Clearwater County has decreased since 1998. With the closure of the Jaype Mill in Pierce, the County experienced significant employment decreases in almost all industries.

Because of the mill closure, local economic development groups worked hard to diversify the economy. Along with efforts to attract new businesses, attention has been given to help existing businesses grow and create new jobs. To assist with business expansion, an industrial park in Orofino was constructed. Architectural Signs and Engraving, Inc. was the first tenant and has been successful.

Three employment sectors, *Other Manufacturing*, *Retail Trade*, and *Health Care*, produced new jobs in 2005, which was a good sign for a struggling economy. Summer tourism was up in 2005 and is expected to grow through 2006 as people from all over the country visit the county to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The scenic Lolo portion of the trail, ending near Pierce, has become a popular destination for visitors.

Unemployment Rates

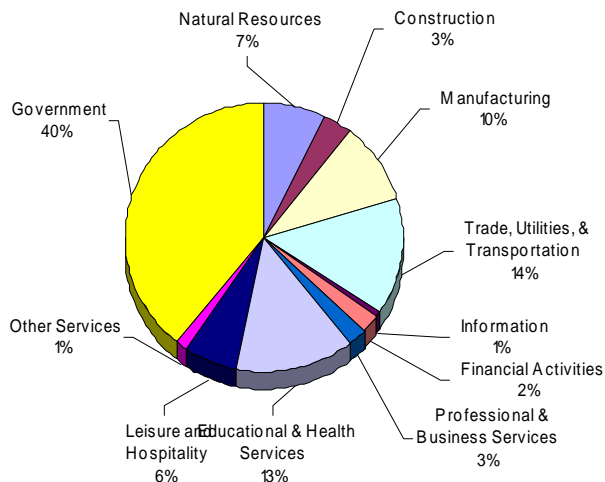


A concern in the economy continues to be how the resolution of the salmon issue will impact tourism and the Dworshak Dam. The periodic drawdown of Dworshak Reservoir and increased flows from upper Snake River reservoirs reportedly result in an increase in the survival of endangered fall Chinook salmon smolts in the Snake River. However, the drawdown adversely affects the amount of water in the Dworshak Reservoir and the Clearwater River, which both provide recreational activities for residents and tourists. Because of its high unemployment rate, Clearwater County is an eligible labor surplus area, giving it priority for government contracts.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	3,502	3,434
Total Employment	3,210	3,186
Unemployed	291	249
Clearwater County % Unemployed	8.3	7.2
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	4,042	4,121	4,220	4,297	4,068	3,669	3,527	3,349	3,283	3,359	3,389
Unemployment	519	497	496	559	519	479	508	451	377	339	308
% of Labor Force Unemployed	12.8	12.1	11.8	13.0	12.8	13.1	14.4	13.5	11.5	10.1	9.1
Employment	3,523	3,624	3,724	3,738	3,549	3,190	3,019	2,898	2,906	3,020	3,081

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



### Covered Employers

Covered employers are those who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of employers in Idaho. The number of covered employers in Clearwater County decreased from 2003 to 2004 by 3 for a total of 340. *Government* accounted for 40 percent of all jobs and has had a stabilizing influence on the economy even during times of stress.

### Major Employers

Orofino Joint School District #171
U.S. Forest Service
Clearwater County
Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinic
Idaho State Penitentiary
Department of Health & Welfare
DEBCO
Konkolville Lumber Co., Inc.

### Occupational Wages\*

### Starting Wage

Accountants	\$17.00
Carpenters	\$13.50
Cashiers	\$6.00
Child Care Workers	\$6.50
Equipment Operators	\$11.50
General Office Clerks	\$7.25
Janitors	\$7.00
Managers, General	\$9.25
Nurses	\$16.00
Salespersons, Retail	\$6.25
Secretaries	\$8.25
Teachers	\$18.75
Truck Drivers	\$11.75
Waiters & Waitresses	\$5.25

\* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at [cl.idaho.gov/lmi](http://cl.idaho.gov/lmi).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,181	\$20,771	3,007	\$25,017	3,046	\$25,814
Agriculture	455	\$24,564	334	\$28,395	329	\$28,778
Mining	*	*	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	93	\$18,327	108	\$28,813	99	\$29,183
Manufacturing	400	\$27,147	275	\$25,902	290	\$27,395
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	477	\$15,027	384	\$21,469	406	\$22,706
Information	22	\$16,011	22	\$21,808	24	\$19,540
Financial Activities	70	\$14,548	63	\$23,074	65	\$23,544
Professional and Business Services	100	\$28,546	54	\$15,318	61	\$15,718
Educational and Health Services	111	\$10,899	383	\$23,005	416	\$23,968
Leisure and Hospitality	158	\$6,117	208	\$8,845	181	\$9,609
Other Services	51	\$15,064	33	\$16,582	34	\$16,622
Government	1,244	\$22,502	1,144	\$29,128	1,140	\$29,699

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Clearwater County	\$16,361	\$17,132	\$18,071	\$18,504	\$18,908	\$19,730	\$21,171	\$22,232	\$22,793	\$24,418
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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